



## Florida House of Representatives

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**Johnnie Byrd**  
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### **HOUSE PASSES KIDCARE REFORM**

*--Up to 90,000 new kids will be added to program--*

TALLAHASSEE – The House today passed legislation to reform the KidCare program and provide health insurance to thousands of low-income children.

“Today is a great day for children’s health and health care,” said Speaker Johnnie Byrd. “We are providing access to the most vulnerable Floridians and every qualified child is insured.”

Senate Bill (SB) 2000 eliminates the KidCare waiting list and appropriates more than \$25 million to enroll up to 90,000 children waiting for coverage in the KidCare program. Additionally, SB 2000 improves the KidCare program by requiring proof of income, changing eligibility for children with access to affordable employer-sponsored health care, and allowing prosecution of individuals attempting to defraud the program.

“Through additional funding and increased eligibility enforcement, we will be able to provide health insurance to more needy Florida children,” said Rep. Carole Green (R-Fort Myers), chair of the House Subcommittee on Health Appropriations. “This is a win for the children today and the future of the program.”

In order to provide health care for more uninsured children, the bill alters some eligibility requirements. In addition to requiring proof of income, the bill removes children with access to employer coverage, unless that coverage would cost more than 5.0% of the family income. SB 2000 also requires random audits of the program to ensure that only eligible children are enrolled.

“These common sense reforms will help ensure the future solvency of KidCare,” said Rep. Bruce Kyle (R-Fort Myers). “This reflects the House’s resolve to provide affordable health care to Floridians.”

SB 2000 initiates open enrollment periods only after a unanimous recommendation by representatives from each of the KidCare administrators, who must determine through the Social Services Estimating Conference that there are sufficient funds to finance enrollment through Federal Fiscal Year 2007.

The Florida KidCare program is a joint local, state, and federal program that provides health insurance for uninsured children of low-income families. Florida KidCare is currently providing over \$1 billion in assistance to more than 1.5 million children, more than 40% of all children in Florida.

The bill now goes to the Governor.

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